

**Department of Health and Human Services
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
National Cancer Institute**

**Minutes of the State-of-the-Science (SOS) Subcommittee of the Interagency Breast Cancer and
Environmental Research Coordinating Committee**

June 22, 2011

The State-of-the-Science (SOS) Subcommittee of the Interagency Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Coordinating Committee was convened for a meeting on June 22, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. via conference call. The Chair of the subcommittee is Michele Forman, PhD of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Subcommittee Members Present

Janice Barlow
Suzanne Fenton, PhD
Michele Forman, PhD
Sandy Haslam, PhD
Christine Ambrosone, PhD
Neeraja Sathyamoorthy, PhD

NIH Staff Present

Jennifer Collins, MR
Laura McGuinn, MSc

Others

Ilane Maximo, University of Texas at Austin

I. BACKGROUND

The Interagency Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Coordinating Committee (IBCERCC) is a congressionally mandated body established by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), in collaboration with the National Cancer Institute (NCI). This Committee is comprised of 19 voting members, including representatives of Federal agencies; non-federal scientists, physicians, and other health professionals from clinical, basic, and public health sciences; and advocates for individuals with breast cancer.

The Committee's primary mission is to facilitate the efficient and effective exchange of information on breast cancer research activities among the member agencies, and to advise the NIH and other Federal agencies in the solicitation of proposals for collaborative, multidisciplinary research, including proposals to further evaluate environmental and genomic factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer. The Committee serves as a forum and assists in increasing public understanding of the member agencies' activities, programs, policies, and research, and in bringing important matters of interest forward for discussion.

The objectives of the SOS Subcommittee of the IBCERCC are integrated and dependent on the objectives and activities of the other Subcommittees¹ of the IBCERCC and include the following: to summarize the state of the literature (both animal and human research); advances in breast cancer research supported or conducted by Federal agencies relevant to the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of cancer (and related disorders); and identify research gaps.

¹ The other Subcommittees of the IBCERCC are the Research Process Subcommittee (Chair, Michael Gould) and the Research Translation, Dissemination, and Policy Implications Subcommittee (Chair, Jeanne Rizzo).

The IBCERCC SOS Subcommittee held its seventh meeting, hosted by NIEHS and the NCI, via conference call on June 22, 2011. Attendees of the meeting included committee members and NIH staff. The meeting agenda included discussion on the following: updates on progress made in the advances, animal, and epidemiology sections and action items and work assignments moving forward.

II. Discussion

Advances updates

Heather Shaw has developed a timeline of clinical advances. Jenny will request the methodology used to generate the outline. Neeraja wrote some paragraphs on advances in how understanding tumor biology has made an impact in terms of therapy. She requested clarification on the best format for presenting this material. Michele thought that we should wait to see the responses that we receive from everyone (responses to the memo sent out by this subcommittee).

Do we need to cite references for the seminal advances in this area? On the timeline we were going to capture information from multiple sources (literature review, responses to the memos, the NIH portfolio) and then develop the timeline using all information.

The group reported that limited responses have been received so far from the memos requesting advances. The SOS members could take 5 minutes and also ask colleagues their opinions on the topic. Once the document is more developed, it can be sent to the full committee for their comment. Jenny can also add as agenda items for the other two subcommittees and record feedback during those meetings.

Heather's document is a nice start for the clinical side that can be used. Sue liked how Heather has laid out the document. She said that this is only one aspect of the advances that need to be covered. This could be displayed as a table for the chronology with an addendum to provide more detail.

Christine thought that a timeline might not work the best to capture the epidemiology work. Some of the work is incremental and won't fit on a timeline. Michele is proposing a year-by-year timeline. Janice thought that the group was going to write a narrative in the beginning, but indicated that it is still not clear who the audience is. The main audience is the DHHS Secretary. Sandy said that there will have to be some separation of advances in prevention, diagnosis, and treatment (as three separate timelines).

Christine wanted to have something to show that all of this research funding has led to advances. This section of the report would help do this. What is the meaning of these bullets? They are an indicator of progress. Michele thought that this group does not have time to do a full assessment of the progress in the way that the group has been doing the other work for animal and human studies.

Michele requested that Neeraja send the document that she has generated to the SOS group so that they can review. We need to plan a session to work specifically on this section.

Heather's outline needs an introductory paragraph.

Janice proposed putting the diagnostic and therapies into the appendices and then advances in prevention would follow the introduction because it has been understudied. Michele suggested that the diagnostic/clinical advances can be put in the time line not the appendices.

Animal updates

Sue then discussed the animals section. Sue has a draft almost ready to send to Sandy and then they will send to everyone. They are referencing primary articles and they did go back through and pull in some reviews. Sue asked how everyone else is going to do this. She was concerned that we would have over 400 references.

Epidemiology updates

Michele presented an update on the work of this group. She reported that Laura spent a fair bit of time getting references for some of the other areas. They have started with 2007 on because of the Brody article. They have a series of different areas that they are all taking on. They are also using the 2009 Gray monograph. In some cases, they could not find any articles. She also expressed concerns regarding the amount of references. Sue said that she has three papers that might be useful for this group.

All of the references could be included in a CD that gets sent with the report. The report itself will include references that we feel must be included as scientists.

Michele reported that her group plans to also cover male breast cancer. Sue said that there is very little known about male mammary gland development in various species.

Action Items

- Jenny will request the methodology used to generate the outline.
- Neeraja will add the information from the annual reports (NIH – specifically NIEHS and NCI) and will send the SOS subcommittee the draft document that she has been working for the advances.
- Anyone who has not sent the memo regarding advances out will do so.
- The members of the SOS subcommittee will respond to the memo as well.
- Sue will send Michele her atrazine article.
- Sue will share the unpublished puberty chapter that she is working on with this subcommittee.
- Jenny will create a Doodle poll for scheduling time to work on gaps and also for the group working on human studies.

III. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m. on June 22, 2011.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes and attachments are accurate and complete.

/Michele Forman/

Michele Forman, PhD

Chairperson

State-of-the-Science Subcommittee

Interagency Breast Cancer & Environmental Research Coordinating Committee

/Gwen W. Collman/

Gwen W. Collman, PhD

Executive Secretary

Research Process Subcommittee

Interagency Breast Cancer & Environmental Research Coordinating Committee

Proper signatures

Treat as signed, § 1.4(d)(2)